

IN THE CLAIMS

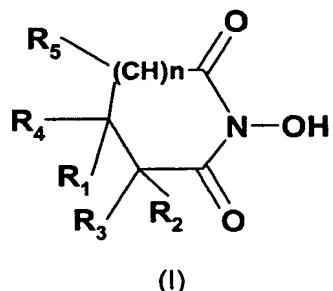
Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of at least one compound capable of cleaving the diketone crosslinking bonds between two proteins, in a composition applied topically to the skin, as an agent for A process of preventing or treating the signs of ageing of the skin or the an orange-peel appearance comprising:~~

applying topically to the skin a composition, in a physiologically acceptable medium, comprising at least one compound capable of cleaving the diketone crosslinking bonds between two proteins.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~Use The process according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein the said proteins are Amadori products formed as a result of the Maillard reaction.~~

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~Use The process according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that wherein the compound capable of cleaving the diketone crosslinking bonds between two proteins is a N-hydroxy imide chosen from (a) the compounds of formula (I):~~



~~in which wherein:~~

R₁ and R₂ are each a hydrogen atom or together form a bond;

R₃, R₄ and R₅ independently represent a hydrogen atom; or a linear, branched or cyclic C₁-C₁₂ alkyl radical, or an aryl group or a heterocycle, which may be substituted with one or more groups X chosen from: a C₁-C₆ alkyl radical and a group -OR, -SR, -NRR', -COOR, -CF₃, -F, -CN, -CH₂OR, and -OCH₂O-, in which R and R' independently denote a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched C₁-C₄ alkyl radical or an aryl group, it being understood that two adjacent groups X may form a ring with the atoms to which they are attached,

or R₃ and R₄, and/or R₄ and R₅, together form an aliphatic or aromatic ring optionally substituted with one or more alkyl, -ORA, -SRA, -NRaRb or -COORA groups in which Ra and Rb independently denote a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched C₁-C₄ alkyl radical;

n is 0 or 1,

and (b) the organic or mineral salts thereof.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Use The process according to Claim 3, characterized in that wherein n = 0 and R₁ = R₂ = R₃ = R₄ = H.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Use The process according to Claim 3, characterized in that wherein n = 0, R₃ = R₄ = H and R₁ and R₂ together form a bond.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Use The process according to Claim 3, characterized in that wherein n = 0, R₃ is a phenyl group, R₄ = H and R₁ and R₂ together form a bond.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Use The process according to Claim 3, characterized in that wherein n = 0, R₁ and R₂ together form a bond and R₃ and R₄ together form an aromatic ring.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Use The process according to Claim 3, characterized in that wherein n = 1, R₁ and R₂ together form a bond, R₃ and R₄ together form an aromatic ring and R₄ and R₅ together form an aromatic ring.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): Use The process according to Claim 3, characterized in that wherein n = 1 and R₁ = R₂ = R₃ = R₄ = R₅ = H.

Claim 10 (Canceled): Cosmetic process for preventing or treating the signs of ageing of the skin or the “orange-peel” appearance, comprising the topical application to the skin of a composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, at least one N-hydroxy imide as defined in any of Claims 3 to 9.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): Process The process according to any one of Claim 10, characterized in that Claim 1, wherein the said N-hydroxy imide represents from 0.1% to 2% of the total weight of the composition.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): Process The process according to Claim 10 or 11, characterized in that it is intended Claim 1, for preventing or treating the signs of ageing of the skin associated with the glycation of dermal proteins.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): Process The process according to any one of Claims 10 to 12, characterized in that it is intended Claim 1, for preventing or treating the loss of tonicity or elasticity of the skin.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~Claim 10 or 11,~~
~~characterized in that it is intended~~ Claim 1, for preventing or combating the signs of photo-
ageing of the skin.

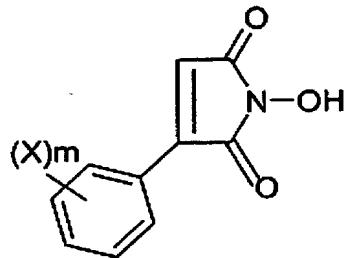
Claim 15 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 14,
~~characterized in that it is intended~~ for preventing or combating wrinkles and/or pigmentation
marks.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of Claims~~
~~10 to 13, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the composition is applied to individuals with
a lack of tonicity or elasticity of the skin.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~Claim 10 or 11,~~
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the composition is applied to individuals with cellulite.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any one of Claims~~
~~10, 11, 14 and 15, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the composition is applied to
individuals presenting signs of photo-ageing, ~~in particular wrinkles and/or pigmentation~~
~~marks.~~

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): Compounds of general formula (II):



(II)

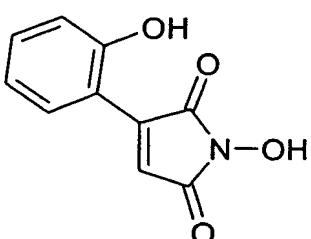
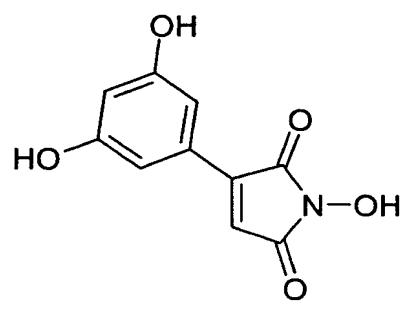
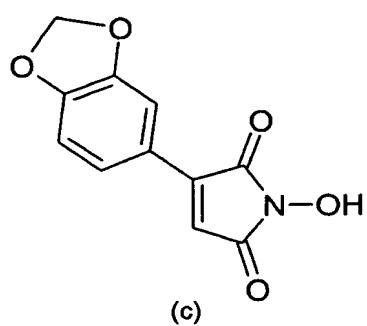
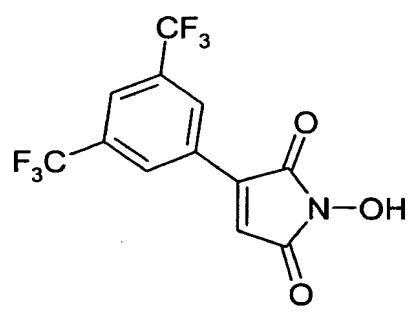
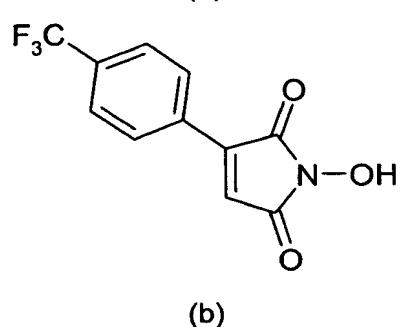
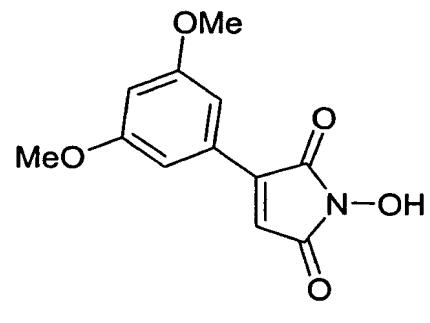
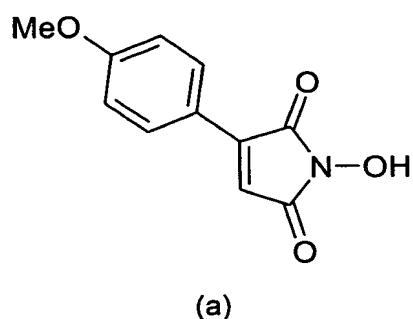
in which wherein:

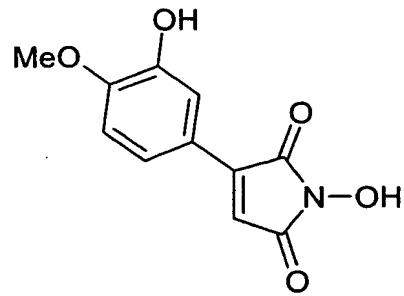
X independently represents a group chosen from: a C₁-C₆ alkyl radical; or a group -OR, -SR, -NRR', -COOR, -CF₃, -F or -CN, in which R and R' independently denote a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched C₁-C₄ alkyl radical or an aryl group; and

m is an integer ranging from 1 to 5,

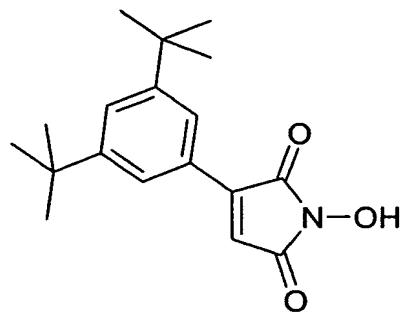
it being understood that two adjacent groups X on the ring may together form an -OCH₂O- bond.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): Compound The compound according to Claim 19,
characterized in that it corresponds corresponding to one of the following chemical formulae
(a) to (k):

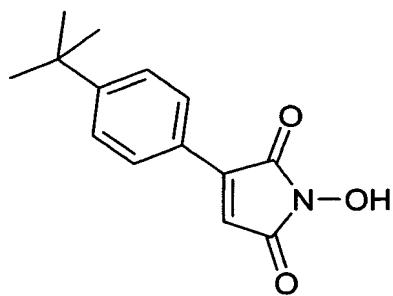




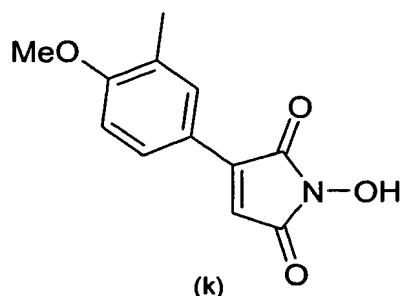
(h)



(i)



(j)



(k)

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): ~~Composition containing~~ A composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, at least one compound according to Claim 19 or 20.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): ~~Composition~~ The composition according to Claim 21, ~~characterized in that it is suitable~~ for topical application to the skin.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): ~~Composition~~ The composition according to Claim 21 or 22, ~~characterized in that it also contains~~ further comprising at least one compound chosen from selected from the group consisting of: desquamating agents and/or moisturizers; depigmenting agents; agents for stimulating fibroblast proliferation; agents for stimulating keratinocyte proliferation; agents for stimulating keratinocyte differentiation; dermo-decontracting agents; tensioning agents; anti-pollution agents or free-radical scavengers; and lipolytic active agents or active agents for reducing adipose tissue.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): ~~Composition~~ The composition according to ~~any one of Claims 21 to 23, characterized in that it also contains~~ Claim 21, further comprising at least one UVA-active and/or UVB-active organic photo-protective agent and/or a mineral photo-protective agent.